

## Claims

1 A detergent free dry cleaning medium based on liquid CO<sub>2</sub> and including from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the cleaning medium of a cleaning additive which is at least one multi-ester having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

5 2 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 1 wherein the multi-ester includes at least one compound of the formula (I):



where

X is -C(O)O- or -OC(O)-; such that

10 where X is -C(O)O-,

R<sup>1</sup> is a direct bond or the residue of a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R<sup>2</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group; and

where X is -OC(O)-,

15 R<sup>1</sup> is or the residue of C<sub>2</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed; and

R<sup>2</sup> is H or a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group; and

n is from 2 to 5;

the compound having a molecular weight of not more than 750.

20 3 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 2 wherein the multi-ester is of the formula (Ia):



where

X is -C(O)O-;

25 R<sup>1a</sup> is a direct bond or the residue of a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed;

R<sup>2a</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group; and

4 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 3 wherein the multi-ester is a dimethyl ester of adipic, glutaric or succinic acids or a mixture of such esters.

5 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the average  
30 molecular weight of the multi-ester(s) is from 150 to 300.

6 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester(s) is from 1:1 to 1:5.

7 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in claim 6 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester(s) is from 1:1 to 1:1.5.

- 8 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the amount of cleaning additive multi-ester present in the cleaning medium is from 0.1 to 0.5% by weight of the cleaning medium.
- 9 A dry cleaning formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 which additionally includes at least one fragrance, optical brightener, fabric conditioner, enzyme and/or bleach.
- 10 A method of dry cleaning which includes contacting textile material with a detergent free dry cleaning medium based on liquid CO<sub>2</sub> and including from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the cleaning medium of a cleaning additive which is at least one multi-ester having a molecular weight of not more than 750.
- 11 A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the multi-ester includes at least one compound of the formula (I):  $R^1(XR^2)_n$  where X, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and n are as defined in claim 2, the compound having a molecular weight of not more than 750.
- 12 A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the multi-ester is of the formula (Ia):  

$$R^{1a}(XR^{2a})_n \quad (Ia)$$
- where  
 X is -C(O)O-;  
 R<sup>1a</sup> is a direct bond or a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group from which n hydrogen atoms have been removed;  
 R<sup>2a</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbyl group; and
- 13 A method as claimed in any claim 12 wherein the multi-ester is a dimethyl ester of adipic, glutaric or succinic acids or a mixture of such esters.
- 14 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 13 wherein the average molecular weight of the multi-ester(s) is from 150 to 300.
- 15 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 14 wherein the average ratio of oxygen atoms to carbon atoms in the multi-ester(s) is from 1:1 to 1:1.5.
- 16 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 15 wherein the amount of cleaning additive multi-ester present in the cleaning medium is from 0.1 to 0.5% by weight of the cleaning medium.
- 17 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 16 which additionally includes at least one fragrance, optical brightener, fabric conditioner, enzyme and/or bleach.
- 18 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 17 wherein the multi-ester is pre-mixed with liquid CO<sub>2</sub> before contacting the textiles.
- 19 A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 18 wherein the cleaning process is carried out at a temperature of from -5 to 25°C.

- 20 A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the temperature is from from 5 to 20°C.
- 21 A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the temperature is from from 12 to 15°C.